

# **EPA REGION 3 QA UPDATE**

**2020 MARAMA AIR QUALITY MONITORING TRAINING  
COMMITTEE VIRTUAL WORKSHOP**

**VERENA JOERGER**

# OUTLINE

01

Region 3 – “It’s a new day for QA”

02

Virtual TSA Review

03

Game – Flag the data!

# IT'S A NEW DAY FOR QA!

Late 2018

Realignment



2019/2020

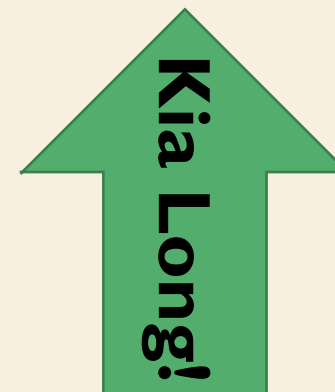
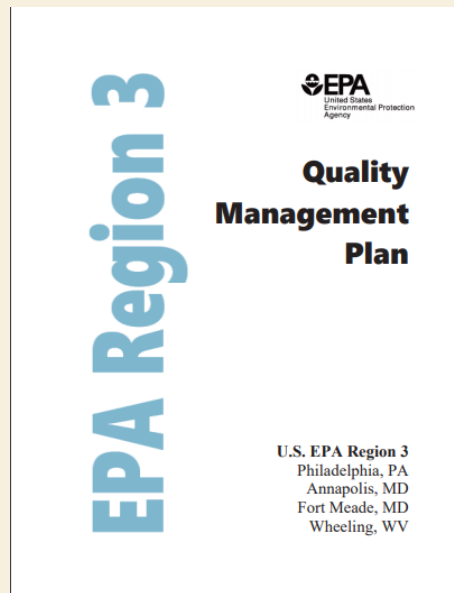
New QMP



Early 2020

New RQAM

- EPA Region 3 realignment centralized many QA functions and responsibilities



# CHANGES

## QAPP Review Process:

- Tracking of:
  - Submitted documents
  - Status within review/approval process
  - Expiration
    - Notifications
- QAPP Review/Approval Memo
  - DCN
  - Signed by RQAM

## Why all the tracking?

- New EPA 2105.1 requires tracking of QA documents and activities
- Agency-wide metrics
- AQAB ELMS Project

# **TECHNICAL SYSTEMS AUDITS – 2020 EDITION**

- Remote/Virtual
- Used Teams and Skype for video conferencing
  - Site visits
  - Lab visits
  - Data review
  - Pre- and Post-TSA meetings
- All TSA activities remained virtually the same

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# COMMON FINDINGS - 2020

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Expired or non-existent QAPPs and/or SOPs

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Staff shortages

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Ambiguous data null coding practices

**SO MANY NULL  
CODES!**



# LET'S PLAY: FLAG THE DATA!

- For each scenario, choose the appropriate AQS null qualifier code to apply to the affected data

## Scenario 1:

*A 1 pt. QC check is performed on a SO<sub>2</sub> instrument between 10:00AM and 10:23AM.*

- a) *AS – Poor Quality Assurance Results*
- b) *AQ – Collection Error*
- c) *AX – Precision Check*
- d) *BC – Multi-point Calibration*

# LET'S PLAY: FLAG THE DATA!

- For each scenario, choose the appropriate AQS null qualifier code to apply to the affected data

## Scenario 2:

*A strong thunderstorm rolls into the area around one of your agency's monitoring stations and knocks out the site's electricity. Of course, this happens the week after the station's uninterruptable power supply stopped working.*

- a) ~~AM – Miscellaneous Void~~
- b) AV – Power Failure
- c) ~~AO – Bad Weather~~
- d) BK – Site Computer / Data Logger Down

# LET'S PLAY: FLAG THE DATA!

- For each scenario, choose the appropriate AQS null qualifier code to apply to the affected data

## Scenario 3:

*The SO<sub>2</sub> instrument that the operator performed a 1 pt. QC check on earlier, didn't pass. The operator checks the instrument diagnostics, and everything seems to be functioning properly, so they decide to perform a multi-point calibration that takes 2 hours.*

- a) *BC – Multi-point Calibration*
- b) *BD – Auto Calibration*
- c) *AI – Insufficient Data*
- d) *BM – Accuracy Check*

**THANK YOU!**

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